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MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1903.

Robert B. Armstrong, the new assistant secretary of the treasury, has assumed his duties, and it is rumored that a general "shaking up" in the customs service will follow. Ever since the rumored silk frauds in New York there has been dissatisfaction with the administration of the customs laws, and the president has urged a reorganization of the service. General Spaulding, whom Mr. Armstrong succeeds, will leave the service, his health having given way under increasing years.

Some delay in the report of the anthracite coal strike commission is expected, as it leaked out that the commission had been obliged to send to the mining region for further evidence with regard to certain technicalities in the testimony they have already taken. The chief difficulty, so far as learned, relates to the demand of the miners that they be paid for the coal they mined by weight as it comes from the mines and before the waste products have been removed. It is impossible, however, to learn anything of the attitude of the commission in regard to this demand.

It is the duty of all good citizens to aid in bringing to justice the men who are responsible for last night's cold-blooded murder, as well as for the several assaults that have preceded it. There is a band of outlaws in our midst it is time they were rounded up, and if the work is being done to gain sympathy for the company there also should be a ferreting out of the guilty ones. The murder of Officer Paul Mendelsohn last night should make a detective of every man in Waterbury. The strikers, we believe there are about eighty of them, should leave no stone unturned until the guilty ones are brought before the bar of justice. The rioting which brought the state militia to our doors was bad enough, and has made Waterbury the target for every newspaper writer in the country, almost. This latest outrage will serve to make us more despised than ever by our fellowmen everywhere. Hunt down at once the red-handed assassins that shot down a conscientious officer.

The democratic filibuster in the senate has been productive of great good in that it has resulted in the death of the Aldrich financial bill. That bill was designed to give the national banks of the country additional advantages, and in fact to establish a national bank trust, but the action of the democrats has killed the measure for this congress. They contended that the ostensible object of the bill, which was to get the money now congested in the national treasury, out into the hands of the people, could be done in another and in a much better way, and that was by reducing the tariff on many articles and stop the flow of the money into the treasury. In other words, instead of having the money go into the treasury and then sending it back to the people through the medium of the national banks, which would get a profit out of the people, they would reduce taxation and keep the money in the hands of the people in the first instance. This Aldrich bill, in connection with the tariff, would have been a veritable con trap. It would have caught the people coming and going. That, however, is the essence of republican legislation.

HEARD IN PASSING

China is now wondering whether Venezuela will pay in gold or silver.

The supreme court has determined that congress has absolute power over interstate commerce.

Despite the enterprise of the United States, Chili gets her warships built in one-fourth the time.

Secretary Root denies his intention of resigning from the cabinet. Are we to understand he is rooted there?

Secretary Cortelyou estimated the expenses of his new department at \$1,375,000. Congress gave him \$200,000.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given \$100,000 to found a school for librarians. Perhaps he will now take in hand the schooling of some authors.

A manufacturer in the west of England, anxious that his hands should keep Christmas in a proper spirit, told them that if they went to church on that day they should receive their wages just the same as if they had been at work. Shortly after the address a deputation of solemn faced employees waited upon their chief. "We're willin' to attend church," said the spokesman; "and if ye can see your way to payin' us overtime, we're willin' to attend the Methodist chapel in the evening."—Hartford Post.

E. S. Willard, the English actor, suspended his performance at the New National theater in Washington the other night, in the midst of a love passage, and, turning to some well dressed persons in a box, declared that if the loud talking did not stop at once he would ring down the curtain. In a voice trembling with feeling he said: "I have been greatly annoyed by the constant talking; I cannot continue if it goes on. It must stop or the curtain will be rung down. I am a very

patient man, but some things get beyond endurance." The audience applauded this utterance with enthusiasm.—Hartford Times.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Two-thirds of the world's correspondence is conducted in the English language.

The United States and Great Britain together handle more letters and periodicals than all the rest of the world put together.

A tract of 20,000 acres in western Kansas has been bought by Indiana, and Ohio capitalists for raising Polled Angus cattle.

Among the worst foes of the memory are too much food, too much physical exercise, and strangely enough, too much education.

The Portuguese attempted to establish cattle farming in Newfoundland in 1553, but all traces of the animals they imported have been lost.

Pure oil of turpentine mixed with one per cent. of oil of lavender is the finest of all simple methods for purifying the air of a stuffy room.

The United States has now over 7,500,000 acres of artificially irrigated land. Colorado and California alone have between them 3,000,000 acres.

The steamship Persia crossed the Atlantic in 1856 in nine days one hour and 45 minutes, and held the record for a period of no less than ten years.

The average weight of a calf three months old is from 233 pounds to 353 pounds. At one year this weight has increased to from 640 pounds to 750 pounds.

The two largest German steamship lines carried between them 233,881 passengers last year to America. The four main British lines carried only 120,411, and the three American carried 67,840.

A Japanese resident of San Francisco has recently patented a life raft which is intended to remain anchored to a sunken vessel, thus keeping it stationary to rescue swimmers, and at the same time serving as a marking buoy.

The remnant of a strange tribe of Eskimos has been discovered on Southampton island, at the north end of Hudson bay. These people had never seen a white man until recently. Their huts are built of the great jaws of whales covered with skins.

WESTERN CATTLE RANGES.

Plan by Which They May Be Restored to Their Former Fertility.

The number of cattle in the United States is increasing, though it does not keep pace with the population. But the business is more and more forced on to high priced land, rendering beef production costlier than it need be. According to figures laid before the house committee on public lands April 16, 1902, the number of range cattle sent to market diminished 81 per cent. between 1895 and 1901.

With due care the range can be made to recover its old fertility. It might easily be put in condition to fatten four head of stock to each head now grazing upon it. To effect this, regulation is needed. Some authority must be asserted over the pastures to prevent their abuse, to make it for the interest of occupants not to kill the goose which lays the golden egg. An end must be put to the blighting competition now kept up, says E. Benjamin Andrews, in Review of Reviews.

Regulation being established, pastures can be used in rotation, a period of rest being given each, during which the grazing and trampling of herds may cease, and grasses have opportunity to scatter and fructify their seeds. Barren places can be artificially reseeded and induced to yield herbage as of old. In localities better grasses than ever grow there can be sown and grown.

Such a recuperative process has been set going in other countries and in parts of our own. Australia has suffered the pinch through which we are now passing. Her great live stock industry was dying out; her exports of wool and of frozen and preserved meats dwindling. Ranges were depleted or destroyed, as now with us. Cattle "dying" out, range jumping and quarrels were general. The men of that country faced the problem and solved it. A system of leases was devised, giving each grazer, for a term of 28 years, exclusive rights upon his land. It became profitable for him to improve his holding instead of promoting its deterioration. The lessee owns his domain in two, pasturing each part one year and resting it the next. In this way the whole pasture gradually improves in quality. Cattle multiply and thrive as additional grass grows to feed them.

Mexico and Canada have had a similar experience, and so in our own country have Texas and other states. The excellent control of cattle afforded by the Canadian system accounts for the present heira of American cattle people across our northern border.

Britons Growing Taller.

Below will be found the statistics: At the average height of 10,000 English boys and men. At the age of 17 these averaged 5 feet 8 inches in height; at the age of 22, 5 feet 9 inches. At 17 they weighed 10 stone 2 pounds; at 22, 10 stone 13 pounds. No nation is increasing in height and weight so rapidly as the British. In 50 years the average has gone up for the whole nation from 5 feet 7 1/2 inches to 5 feet 8 1/2 inches. The average height of the British upper classes at 30 years of age is 5 feet 8 1/2 inches; of the farm laborer, 5 feet 7 3/4 inches. The criminal class brings down the average, as their height is but 5 feet 5 1/4 inches.—Chicago Post.

Ant-Eater Is Toothless.
The South American quadruped known as the ant-eater is without teeth.

Positively Deaf.
She (at the piano)—How do you like my playing? I play only by ear, you know.

He (a savage bachelor)—Hem! Why don't you consult an aurist?—Chicago Daily News.

The United States has 10,853,796 men fit for soldiers.

THE PLUME HARVEST.

Hunters in Southern States Furnish Northern Markets.

Lead Lonely Lives in the Swamps, Where They Are Constantly on the Watch for Feathered Creatures.

At this season of year the plume hunters are reaping their harvest. They are the men who in all of the thousands of bays, inlets and bayous of the South Atlantic coast, on the marshy ponds of the interior and in the great swampy districts shoot shore birds for their plumage only.

It is an industry widely spread, in which a good deal of capital is invested and a good deal of work done, and properly conducted it is highly remunerative, says a recent report in the New York Sun.

The plume hunter must face all sorts of weather, of course, except very cold weather. He must know what birds are most highly valued and where they are to be found, how they are to be approached and how their plumage is to be preserved after they are dead. There is nothing difficult about the work.

Probably there are more plume hunters in Florida than in any other state, though many of them operate along the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts, down the Atlantic edge of Georgia and in Texas and Arkansas.

They get all sorts of birds because of late years plumes have become scarcer and milliners now use feathers they would have disdained formerly, but in the main they devote themselves to well-plumed shore birds, some of which are of extremely beautiful hues.

Among the birds of Florida most steadily pursued are the herons, black, white, blue and green. These are in tens of thousands, and though they are shy, they can be reached by a man who knows how.

Avocets, black and white, are slain in numbers, as is the whooping crane, a great stately bird whose body furnishes so many handsome feathers that it is a rich haul. Flamingoes of a light pink, those of so dark a pink as to be almost crimson and the pink and white and pink and blue varieties are eagerly sought.

The curlews, sandpipers and other troglodytes along the sands are gathered in, and fishhaws and pelicans are, knocked down at every opportunity. There is also relentless war against the many kinds of southern gulls. In fact, pretty nearly all feathers are regarded as good things by the plume hunter except the buzzard's feathers, or the feathers of the yellow-tipped Mexican vulture.

The skins are rudely but effectively preserved. They are taken off whole, with the wings left on, and after the fat is scraped from them they are rubbed with salt and powdered arsenic. No further attention is paid to them except to pack them securely, and they reach New York in excellent condition.

With many of the smaller birds more care is taken, and the plume hunter in preserving them may even rise to taxidermy. It is often desired to save these skins with the heads on, so that the whole bird may adorn some woman's bonnet. The plume hunters do very well, some of them, and are patient about learning, because the better work of this sort is done the more money they will get for it. When it reaches the wholesale feather houses in the north.

As a general thing plume hunters lead lonely and exposed lives, camping under ragged tents in swampy districts, doing their own cooking, standing or sneaking for hours in the mud and day and night unspeakably dirty. Some of them have boats and drift up and down the bayous, picking off a crane or avocet here and there, or they force their way through tangled swamps, where the vines swing low to the water, making for some hidden lagoon far in the forest, known to no man save them.

Some of them have breechloaders, but not many of them, though the pump gun is finding its way among them rapidly. They use cheap, black powder and unchilled shot, but they kill all right, and at the cost of ammunition is much of an object with them, one will sometimes put in half a day trying to get a little nearer.

Occasionally a small-caliber rifle is found among them, and this is much the best weapon for their business, but commonly they stick to antique, muzzle-loading double-barrels, with waterproof caps. A plume hunter with ordinary luck will clear up several hundred dollars in a winter, and through the summer he fishes, half for profit, half for amusement, or loaf through the warm spell.

He Knew His Luck.
"No, sir, I don't want any accident insurance," exclaimed the irritable party. "It would be just my luck not to have a blamed thing happen to me if I was carrying an accident policy."

"A life insurance, then?" suggested the agent.

"Worse and worse," was the reply. "Why, I wouldn't have one chance in a thousand of dying in time to make anything out of the company, if I had a policy. Oh, I know my luck."—Chicago Post.

Inventor of Queer Motor.
Nathan Stubbiefield, of Calloway county, Ky., who claims to have discovered a system of wireless telephony, is still engaged in perfecting his scheme. He announced to the world some years ago that he had, in experimenting on a perpetual motion plan, accidentally discovered an earth current motor that would revolutionize existing electrical science. He also claimed to have discovered a method whereby he would telephone without wires. He has guarded his secret well, and the people of this section of the country are yet wondering whether he is simply a crank or will really emerge some day from his obscurity to astonish the whole civilized world with a great discovery.

TRAGEDY OF A KISS.

Chicago Man Slaps Girl Who Kisses His Lips and Is Fined Five Dollars.

A man in Chicago holds the sanctity of his lips above pearls and rubies. He says that he has his faults, but no woman shall kiss him living. What she does when he has died in defending the only once kissed place under his nose he does not care.

Thirty years old, says the Chicago American, he has gone straight down the middle of the road, looking askance at the primrose path and stuffing his ears with cotton to keep out the songs of the sirens. His name is William Gaunwald.

Miss Annie Williams, of 95 Wells street, loves him. She has fought against it in vain. Last Thursday morning she looked at him with her soul in her eyes; then, swayed by im-



KISSED AGAINST HIS WILL.

pulse, she threw her arms about his neck and kissed him resoundingly. Gaunwald staggered from the shock. For a moment he was too horror-stricken to do anything but gasp.

Then, every instinct of insulted modesty rising fiercely, he slapped Miss Williams, saying: "Take that, now!" She wept and had him arrested.

"This girl kissed me," he said to Justice Kersten. "I was not expecting such a thing. I was totally unprepared to defend myself. She gave me no warning at all. She just violently hugged me and kissed me. I don't permit any woman to take such liberties."

Justice Kersten could not see that he had been injured in any way, and fined him five dollars.

WHALING IN THE ARCTIC.

The Skipper and His Gun and the Precautions in Preparing for a Shot.

The gun, a solid, cumbersome affair of about three-inch caliber, is swung around so that the muzzle points inboard, and then the chamber is swabbed out by the skipper himself, who plainly regards every step of this preliminary work as of the greatest importance. The number of times that this man has missed his whale is so small that he takes pride in his record; and, in addition to his reputation, there is the value of the whale, says a writer in Harper's. A good-sized whale means \$1,200 or so to himself, who, besides being skipper and harpooner, is also owner of the ship and of the trying-out plant ashore. So, after inspecting the harpoon and wadding brought from below, he swabs out the gun a second time, and then takes a pound of quick-burning powder, in a little white cotton bag, and rams it home. A big fistful of rope-ends is stuffed in after the powder, and following the rope-ends a thick rubber disk; after that another batch of rope-ends.

Then ensues a most critical examination of the bomb lance, a heavy piece of cast iron, perhaps 18 inches in length, sharp pointed forward, but enlarged toward the rear, where is enclosed a grenade that is timed to explode a few seconds after it is shot into the whale and deal the mortal wound.

Famous Pictures Ruined.

The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail says that owing to unscientific treatment while they were being renovated, several famous pictures belonging to the Rosso palace, at Genoa, have been lost to the world. The paintings included two Van Dycks, a Carlo Maratta, a Priz Bordone, a Valerio Castelli, and two Guido Renis. The cleaning was intrusted to a professed cleaner, who washed the paintings with an alkaline solution which completely destroyed them. It is stated that the Van Dycks were among the most valuable specimens of his work. The loss is incalculable.

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